



Tanya Lane  
Town Manager

# TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET  
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

**MAYOR ROY ZARTARIAN**

## **MINUTES**

### **NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL L101 – Lower Level 7:00 P.M.**

**February 14, 2017**

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Mayor Zartarian called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

#### **I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

#### **II. ROLL CALL**

Councilor Anest  
Councilor Budrejko  
Councilor DelBuono  
Councilor Klett  
Councilor Manke  
Councilor Marocchini  
Councilor Nagel - absent  
Councilor Serra  
Mayor Zartarian

#### **Staff Attendees:**

Tanya Lane, Town Manager  
Jaime Trevethan, Asst. to the Town Manager – Administration  
Linda Irish-Simpson, Clerk of the Council

#### **III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Councilor Manke moved to accept the agenda as written and was seconded by Councilor DelBuono. The motion passed 8 – 0 (Councilor Nagel – absent).

#### **IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL (In Person/Via Telephone: 860-665-8736)**

Dave Goodale, 1741 Main Street: He spoke regarding the resolution that would be voted on at the meeting and wanted to thank the Town Council and Mayor for the support they were showing for the Deming – Young farm house. He hoped they could work together to finish the work needed on the house so it could be opened on a regular basis. He stated the first floor was completed and hoped the second floor would be completed as quickly as possible.

Phone: (860) 665-8510 Fax: (860) 665-8507  
townmanager@newingtonct.gov  
www.newingtonct.gov

Mary Goodale, 1741 Main Street: She reviewed the work that had already been done on the house since 2001. The house had been open to the public since 2010 with many community events being held there. She thought the structural analysis should have been done years ago and hoped the town would remember its pledge after the results came back to support the project.

John Bachand, 56 Maple Hill Avenue: He stated he felt Mayor Bronin's visits to area towns was to prepare everyone for the Governor's planned budget. He asked how much it would cost Newington if the sewer fee was based on the meter reading. Regarding the budget he asked why the Town did not create an endowment type fund and add a small percentage to it each year. He felt they were leaving the future residents a mess to clean up.

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: She supported the right of free speech in regard to a posting by the Town Attorney on Facebook. She read a letter stating it was embarrassing to the Town to have so much negativity focused on the town.

Michael J. Fox, 1901 Main Street: He agreed with Rose Lyons comments but was disappointed to read the remarks on Facebook. Freedom of speech should not denigrate anyone, and he found the comments offensive. He indicated Mr. Ancona should be careful of what he said.

Jane Ancona Siegel, 57 Meadowview Court: She agreed with Rose and felt the remarks should never have been made news. She said her brother was not a racist and did not agree with the negative comments posted. In his official capacity he did not do anything wrong. She was disappointed in the political lynch mob and was sad something like that happened. She was embarrassed for the first time to live in Newington.

(inaudible): He stated people felt free to express their opinions but felt the comments expressed regarding the new President exceeded anything that Mr. Ancona had posted. He said people were being encouraged to assassinate the President and if said about Obama, the person would have been arrested. He felt there was a double standard.

The Councilors read 19 letters into the record (see attached).

## **V. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

## **VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION RE: PERSONNEL**

Mayor Zartarian explained the executive session was regarding the comments posted on Facebook by the Town Attorney, Ben Ancona. It was his option to have the executive session held in public, and he would be exercising that right.

Councilor Anest sympathized with Mr. Ancona and understood how his family felt. As an appointed official in the Town, he had to be careful and mindful of what he wrote and posted. The comments brought much negativity to the Town and felt he should take a step back before posting and to think about consequences.

Mr. Ancona stated he was sorry for all the time and effort that was being spent on the matter. He strongly felt that it was free speech and the person who notified the press was evil. It was a direct attack on him and his family by someone who knew nothing about him. He defended what he said and his right to say it on a personal page.

The councilors agreed with Mr. Ancona's comments but also felt public officials were held to a higher standard. They sympathized with him and his family and were in support of him. Councilor Budrejko said it was an example of people getting news from Facebook and not getting the full picture.

Councilor Marocchini did not agree with the comments made but felt he had a right to state them. He indicated nothing was private anymore. Councilor Serra said that it was his personal opinion but felt he should be more careful in the future of what he posted. Councilor Manke said he supported Mr. Ancona and wished everyone spent as much time working together as was spent ripping each other apart.

Councilor Klett did not feel Mr. Ancona should lose his job and indicated everyone had posted something they later regretted. She was not sure why it got to the current level and why so much time was being spent on it during the meeting.

Councilor Anest said that some democrats were angry but indicated none of the democrats on the council were calling for his termination and was not sure who had notified the press. She wanted to be sure the public knew it was not the Council members who were angry.

Mayor Zartarian said he had gotten some emails calling for Mr. Ancona's termination but after much discussion he found no cause to terminate him and considered the issue closed.

## **VII. CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS (Action May Be Taken)**

### **A. State Historic Preservation Grant: Deming-Young Farm**

Mayor Zartarian was looking forward to the property being improved and the Town needed to know the overall condition of the property. Councilor Marocchini said that Mr. Langdon was doing a good job of cataloguing all the Town property and indicated the Town would have to ensure that anything that needed to be fixed was.

Councilor Budrejko said that once it was fixed up it could be a tremendous asset for the Town and used for many events. Councilor Manke stated there weren't a lot of 1784 buildings in Town and was in support of the resolution.

Councilor DelBuono moved the following:

## **RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council hereby authorizes the Town Manager or her designee to submit a grant application to the State Historic Preservation Office for funding in the amount of \$5,000 for the purpose of a structural assessment of the Deming Young Farmhouse located at 282 Church Street.**

The motion was seconded by Councilor Klett and the motion passed 8 – 0 (Councilor Nagel-absent).

## **VIII. CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS (Action May Be Taken by Waiving the Rules)**

### **A. Discussion: MDC West Hartford Resolution**

Councilor Budrejko asked what would happen if Hartford did not pay the MDC bill and was in favor of a similar type of resolution as West Hartford passed recently. The resolution passed indicated they would pay for a year but it was only a one year solution. She hoped the Council would endorse the West Hartford resolution or create a different one.

Councilor DelBuono stated that the resolution created a scary precedent. The property owners in Hartford had paid their bills and the problem was created once the revenue was collected. She did not think other towns should be expected to pay a bill that residents had already paid. It was not right to levy an additional tax on the residents.

Councilor Marocchini was not in favor of voting on a resolution when nothing had happened as yet. He was not sure it would come to fruition.

Councilor Budrejko stated there should be a formal communication should be sent from the neighbor towns to the MDC to indicate how the towns felt about the issue. She said they had expectations that Newington would pay the bill since their representatives had voted Yes on the issue. Councilor Anest agreed a formal letter should be sent and felt others would follow. If the bill was not paid by Hartford and not budgeted now, the amount would have to go to referendum. A lien could be placed on the revenues of the Town if not paid. Councilor Anest wanted the opportunity to discuss the issue with the representatives from Newington and to let them know how the Council felt.

Councilor Klett said it might not happen and was not comfortable voting on a resolution without a written opinion from the Town Attorney. She indicated the MDC had deep legal pockets and did not want the Town to get into a legal battle with the MDC. The Council did not want residents to pay more than absolutely necessary but thought there was an agreement with the MDC that obligated the area towns to pay any amount not paid by another town.

Councilor Manke hoped there would not be a need for a resolution and would not know until June or July. He questioned what would happen in the future and felt the Town needed to take a stand. Councilor DelBuono was disappointed the vote had been taken prior to the representatives meeting with the Council.

Councilor Budrejko said the Town needed to be on record about the issue and that the Town was not going to pay the amount. Councilor Anest was concerned that Hartford knowing other towns would pay the bill, would not place a priority on paying their portion. Councilor Serra agreed with the Councilors comments and did not want to place the amount in the budget if not needed. She would also want to see a legal opinion to determine if Newington had to pay.

It was decided to have the Town Attorney and MDC representatives attend the next meeting to discuss the matter further.

## **B. Anna Reynolds Project Building Committee**

Councilor Klett asked the Town Council consider the creation of a building committee to plan for future renovations needed. She did not feel it would impact the Town Hall renovation or the passing of the referendum since residents knew the project was needed and pending. The Superintendent did not want the project to interfere with the renovation of Town Hall.

Councilor DelBuono indicated this had been tabled and she still had concerns about it. The Town Hall was the first priority and the Town needed to have one referendum presented at a time. Councilor Klett said the Town Council determined when a project moved forward and could still create the committee.

Councilor Anest was in favor of moving the Town Hall renovation forward as quickly as possible. She felt the focus should be on that project and should be tabled until the Town Hall was done. The State was still funding renovation versus new construction and thought funds would be available at a later date. Councilor Marocchini was not against the project but thought the Town Hall should be the first priority. He did not want to take the risk it would fail at referendum because of a second project.

Councilor Klett said if the referendum was held in June or July, the building committee would still be in the very early stages and not conflict with the Town Hall.

Mayor Zartarian indicated it would be postponed until after the referendum for the Town Hall.

### **C. Town Hall Construction Manager**

Councilor Marocchini said nine companies submitted bids and three were interviewed and scored identically. Downes Construction was awarded the contract and a referendum was scheduled to be held in June.

Councilor Anest indicated they would hand in hand with the architect on the project. Councilor DelBuono stated the Council would have a special meeting on February 16 to consider this and get public input. Councilor Marocchini was glad the Council was moving forward since there was a tight schedule.

### **D. Update: Collective Bargaining**

Tanya Lane explained an agreement had been passed by the union and it was up to the Council to ratify it. It had been a long exercise with a lot of give and take on both sides. Areas of health care, wages, seniority, and retro pay were some of the many concerns. It was a four year contract and one change was that they would be working on Veterans' Day, which also had the approval of the superintendent. The schools would use it as an educational opportunity.

Councilor Marocchini thanked Mrs. Lane for the hard work needed to reach a contract. He hoped to have it passed since the union had agreed to it. He thought it should be added to the special meeting agenda. Mayor Zartarian was pleased both sides worked through all the issues without having to go to binding arbitration.

## **IX. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS (Action May Be Taken)**

### **A. Appointments to Boards and Commissions**

- 1. Affordable Housing Monitoring Agency**
- 2. Board of Assessment Appeals**
- 3. Commission on Aging and Disabled**
- 4. Balf-Town Committee**
- 5. Building Code Board of Appeals**
- 6. Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG)**
- 7. Central Connecticut Health District Board of Directors (CCHD)**
- 8. Conservation/Inland Wetlands Commission**
- 9. Development Commission**
- 10. Employee Insurance & Pension Benefits Committee**
- 11. Environmental Quality Commission**
- 12. Board of Ethics**
- 13. Fair Rent Commission**
- 14. Newington Housing Authority**
- 15. Human Rights Commission**
- 16. John Wallace Wing Reconfiguration Project Building Committee**
- 17. Library Board of Directors**
- 18. Newington CATV Advisory Council**
- 19. Newington School Career Technical Program Renovation Project Building Committee**
- 20. Open Space Committee**
- 21. Standing Insurance Committee**
- 22. STEM Academy PBC**
- 23. Town Hall Renovations Project Building Committee**
- 24. Town Plan & Zoning Commission**
- 25. Tri-Town Community Cable Access**
- 26. Vehicle Appeals Board**
- 27. Zoning Board of Appeals**

Councilor DelBuono moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council hereby makes the following appointment(s):**

**2. BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS**

**3 members, 4 year term**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Replaces</b>
<b>Jennifer Ancona</b>	<b>360 Maple Hill Avenue</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>Immed. – 11/30/2020</b>	<b>Vacant</b>

The motion was seconded by Councilor Budrejko and the motion passed 8 – 0 (Councilor Nagel – absent).

**X. TAX REFUNDS (Action Requested)**

Councilor Budrejko moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

**That property tax refunds in the amount of \$10,987.56 are hereby approved in the individual amounts and for those named on the “Requests for Refund of an Overpayment of Taxes,” certified by the Revenue Collector, a list of which is attached to this resolution.**

The motion was seconded by Councilor Marocchini and the motion passed 8 – 0 (Councilor Nagel – absent).

**XI. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**  
**A. Regular Meeting, January 24, 2017**  
**B. Special Meeting, February 6, 2017**

Councilor Manke moved to accept the minutes and the motion was seconded by Councilor DelBuono. The motion passed 8 – 0 (Councilor Nagel – absent).

**XII. WRITTEN/ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER, OTHER TOWN AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS, OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS AND THE PUBLIC**

Tanya Lane explained new computers were available to the Councilors and asked each of them call the IT department for training that was needed. She also said the Special Meeting would be held on Thursday at 6 p.m.

**XIII. COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilor Budrejko attended their Open Space recommendations to the TPZ which was favorably received. She hoped it would move forward shortly.

#### **XIV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL (In Person/Via Telephone: 860-665-8736)**

Jane Ancona Siegel, 57 Meadowview Drive: She did not think it was a bad idea to form a building committee and could possibly cause harm if not created. She said that comments on Facebook were not favorable towards the Council and many felt they were not willing to look into the issue. She thought it did not look good for the Council.

Louise Pomeroy, 214 Candlewyck Drive: She said that she had read in the Rocky Hill paper the Town did not want to help out Hartford regarding the MDC and did not feel it was a good idea for the State to spend money on the XL Center when Hartford was headed towards bankruptcy.

John Bachand, 56 Maple Hill: He did not see the harm in creating a building committee since the public was well aware the project needed to be done. He thought they were trying to keep the public from knowing what the costs would be for the school and the library. He felt the only way the MDC would collect money from Hartford would be if the city went bankrupt and would seize assets of the city.

Dana Havens, 113 Stoddard Avenue: she felt there was no harm in forming a building committee and people had already done the math required for both projects. Putting it off put more questions in people's minds regarding the project. She was glad the Council supported Mr. Ancona and saw it as a petty issue.

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: She asked residents to ensure fire hydrants were cleared near their property. She asked for a list of priorities for projects needed in Town so everyone was aware of them. Mrs. Lyons asked what the time line was if the referendum failed and what the process was for bringing it back to the voters. Regarding the town attorney Mrs. Lyons felt the question of him being fired was only mentioned on social media, which created a firestorm. She questioned who had notified the TV station and if they were anonymous she thought it was shameful the TV station put it out without having a named source.

#### **XV. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS**

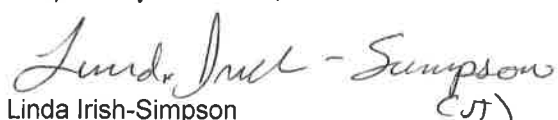
Councilor Anest asked if there was a Town ordinance regarding the clearing of fire hydrants since she did not feel the Fire Department should be responsible for clearing all of them. She thought if there was not, it might be a good idea to look into the issue. She stated there were many letters from residents regarding the Town Attorney that the Councilors received but unless specifically asked to read them into the record they were not.

Councilor Budrejko asked the Town Manager regarding the Town's affected by the Governor's budget and it seemed as though Newington would gain \$178k and she asked why. It was explained it was smoke and mirrors once the exemption for hospital property was repealed. Councilor Klett thanked the Highway Department for their work during the latest storm. She felt they did an excellent job.

#### **XVI. ADJOURNMENT**

Councilor Marocchini moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 p.m. and was seconded by Councilor Serra. The motion passed 8 – 0 (Councilor Nagel – absent).

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Linda Irish-Simpson  
Clerk of the Council

## Trevethan, Jaime

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**From:** Zartarian, Roy  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 15, 2017 9:22 AM  
**To:** Trevethan, Jaime  
**Subject:** FW: Ben Ancona

Roy C. Zartarian  
Mayor  
Town of Newington  
(860) 665-8506

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**From:** Emily Spano [emilyspano237@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2017 9:53 PM  
**To:** Zartarian, Roy  
**Subject:** Ben Ancona

Dear Mr. Mayor,

Please read this letter into the meeting minutes.

I'm writing in support of my step-father, Ben Ancona. These last few weeks have really taken a toll on our family with all of the negative talk and social media nonsense. The part that really upset me most was seeing and hearing adults describe my step dad as racist or having racial undertones to his Facebook posts. My siblings and I were raised in a nonjudgmental environment..."to each his own" so to speak. For someone to read my step dad's post and to argue that he is racist and delusional is, in my opinion, a racist delusional person them self. His post, whether you approve of or disapprove of the content, was his right to state. This is America. It was his constitutional right to post on his personal Facebook page. This was NOT a town of Newington page nor does it reference the town or his role as town attorney. People are saying he shouldn't keep his job because of a stupid post? No, I think they are saying he shouldn't be town attorney because his post didn't side with THEIR view on things. So does this mean these people think that every cop, judge, attorney, doctor or teacher can't do their job because they don't share the same belief, view or political banter, as in this case? I just can't understand it. Thank God my generation, the future, understands, appreciates and respects someone's First Amendment right.

Sincerely,  
Emily Spano  
360 Maple Hill Ave  
Newington

Sent from my iPhone



## Trevethan, Jaime

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**From:** Zartarian, Roy  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 15, 2017 9:21 AM  
**To:** Trevethan, Jaime  
**Subject:** FW: Please use this letter instead

Roy C. Zartarian  
Mayor  
Town of Newington  
(860) 665-8506

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**From:** Jennifer Ancona [jennaancona@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2017 8:56 PM  
**To:** Zartarian, Roy  
**Subject:** Please use this letter instead

Hi Roy! Would you please read this letter into the minutes instead of the first one I sent? I've made a few corrections:) Thanks!!

Dear Mr. Mayor,

Please read this letter into the meeting minutes.

I want to start off by saying it's wonderful to see you're doing well. We've missed you!

I'm writing to express my support for Ben. I, along many others, don't understand how this has gotten this far and why it's still an issue. It saddens me that when this so-called news came out, it wasn't immediately shut down to show our town unity and then appropriately evaluated. Rather, yet again, our small town makes the news for something so ridiculous. Quite frankly, it's embarrassing. Whoever started this drama should be the one to be ridiculed, shamed and questioned, not Ben. Dragging our town through the gutter for what?? A quick 5 minutes of fame, retaliation, political attack?? Come on. Things like this should be shut down IMMEDIATELY. Especially when there is no substance behind it and when it defames a person's character, their family and their town. This is just as absurd as when poor Dr. Collins is attacked for how he chooses to call snow days. Priorities certainly need to be reevaluated. In any event, it's unfortunate that a small group of haters can create such negativity toward Dr. Collins, our town plow guys or my husband. These people really need to grow up and stop being the infamous town bullies they are now know to be.

I hope you will continue your support and loyalty to Ben.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter

Respectfully and affectionately,

Jennifer Ancona  
360 Maple Hill Ave

Newington, CT

## Trevethan, Jaime

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**From:** Zartarian, Roy  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 15, 2017 9:21 AM  
**To:** Trevethan, Jaime  
**Subject:** FW: Town Attorney

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Roy C. Zartarian  
Mayor  
Town of Newington  
(860) 665-8506

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**From:** Jennifer Ancona [jennaancona@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2017 12:56 PM  
**To:** Zartarian, Roy  
**Subject:** Town Attorney

Dear Mr. Mayor,

Please read this letter into the meeting minutes.

I want to start off by saying it's wonderful to see you're doing well. We've missed you!

Well, as I'm sure you've already guessed, I'm writing to you to express my support for Ben. I, and many others, quite honestly don't understand how this has gotten this far and why it's still an issue. It saddens me that when this so-called news came out, it wasn't immediately shut down to show our town unity and then appropriately evaluated. Rather, yet again, our small town makes news for something so ridiculous. Quite frankly, it's embarrassing. Whoever started this drama should be the one to be ridiculed, shamed and questioned. Dragging our town through the gutter for what?? A quick 5 minutes of fame, retaliation, political attack?? Come on. Things like this should be shut down IMMEDIATELY. Especially when there is no substance to it and it defames a person, their family and their town. It's just as absurd as when poor Dr. Collins is attacked for how he chooses to call snow days. Priorities certainly need to be reevaluated. In any event, it's unfortunate that a small group of haters can create such negativity toward Dr. Collins, our town plow guys or my husband and these people really need to grow up.

I hope you will continue your support and loyalty to Ben.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter

Respectfully and affectionately,

Jennifer Ancona  
360 Maple Hill Ave  
Newington, CT

## Trevethan, Jaime

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**From:** Zartarian, Roy  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 15, 2017 9:20 AM  
**To:** Trevethan, Jaime  
**Subject:** FW: Ben Ancona

Roy C. Zartarian  
Mayor  
Town of Newington  
(860) 665-8506

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**From:** Lori [lorigerm4@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2017 12:23 PM  
**To:** Zartarian, Roy  
**Subject:** Ben Ancona

Mr. Mayor,

I am reaching out to you today regarding the issue about our town attorney, Ben Ancona. I am disgusted by the actions of some of the people in our town who are attacking him over his personal Facebook posts. It seems very strange to me that this made the 6 o'clock news the day of our BOE meeting. Sounds like someone is out to hurt Ben, personally and politically or was trying to get the focus off of our budget meeting.

I think this entire matter is ridiculous and I can only imagine what this is doing to his family....such a waste of mental energy. Ben is an outstanding man and an amazing lawyer and I feel honored to call him a friend. His position as our town attorney should NOT be in jeopardy.

I would also take a good look into any town official who does not support one of their colleagues, especially in a matter like this one; clearly an attack. Everyone should be rallying behind him. That is the Newington I grew up in.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email.

I stand for free speech and I stand with Ben Ancona.

Please read this letter into meeting minutes.

Respectfully,

Lori Germano  
Culver St  
Newington, CT 06111

## Trevethan, Jaime

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**From:** Zartarian, Roy  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 15, 2017 9:19 AM  
**To:** Trevethan, Jaime  
**Subject:** FW: Ben Ancona

Roy C. Zartarian  
Mayor  
Town of Newington  
(860) 665-8506

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**From:** Gino Germano [ggermano23@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 12, 2017 7:20 PM  
**To:** Zartarian, Roy  
**Subject:** Ben Ancona

Dear Mr. Mayor,  
Please read this letter into the minutes of the next town council meeting.

I am contacting you today to talk about the conflict regarding Ben Ancona. To start, I would just like to say that I have known Mr. Ancona for six years now, and have known him to be a wonderful, outstanding person full of wisdom and compassion. Regardless of this current issue, you have done Newington a great service by appointing Mr. Ancona as our town attorney. As an aspiring attorney myself I have always looked up to Mr. Ancona, and can only hope to one day have accomplish as much as him.

As you can probably tell, I am a big supporter of Ben Ancona; which is why when I saw the 6 o'clock news painting Mr. Ancona in a bad light, I was outraged. Aside from the point, this past year I have noticed an extreme biased in our countries media. The media seems corrupt and only in support of Democratic views/ideas (for the most part). As a registered independent I try and reason with both political views. However, in light of channel 6's report on Ancona, this seems not only to be a political attack on him, but you as well Mr. Mayor.

In closing, I hope that you will keep Mr. Ancona as our town attorney. Thank you.  
Respectfully,  
Gino Germano

21 Florence Street, Newington, CT 06111

## Trevethan, Jaime

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**From:** Zartarian, Roy  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 15, 2017 9:19 AM  
**To:** Trevethan, Jaime  
**Subject:** FW: Ben Ancona

Roy C. Zartarian  
Mayor  
Town of Newington  
(860) 665-8506

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From: Marta Kempisty [mkempistyy@yahoo.com]  
Sent: Sunday, February 12, 2017 6:36 PM  
To: Zartarian, Roy  
Subject: Ben Ancona

Dear Mr. Mayor,

Please read this letter into the minutes of the next town council meeting.

My name is Marta Kempisty, a current resident of Newington. I am writing this email because I am concerned about specific news surrounding our current town attorney, Ben Ancona. You are probably already well aware of the situation regarding Ancona's Facebook posts; as am I.

I am not one to get political on any issues, but I wanted to extend my support to Mr. Ancona. What I have seen and heard on this issue seems outrageous and ridiculous. I believe that it is Mr. Ancona's right as a citizen of this country to post whatever he wants on his PERSONAL Facebook page. I am also offended that this situation is even an "issue" in our town. There are much more important things that this town should be focusing on. I'm sure Mr. Ancona would much rather be doing his job and helping out the town then having to worry about people attacking his image.

With that being said, my family and I would like to show our support for Ben Ancona, and wish him the best. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Marta Kempisty

223 Vineyard Avenue, Newington, CT 06111

## Trevethan, Jaime

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**From:** Zartarian, Roy  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 15, 2017 9:18 AM  
**To:** Trevethan, Jaime  
**Subject:** FW: Please read letter into meeting minutes

Roy C. Zartarian  
Mayor  
Town of Newington  
(860) 665-8506

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**From:** Jimmy Lavery [jimmylavery@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 10, 2017 8:58 AM  
**To:** Zartarian, Roy  
**Subject:** Please read letter into meeting minutes

I've known Ben for years, and he is nothing but professional when it comes to his job, and "Town Business". The Town of Newington, and its citizens, are quite fortunate to have someone so invested in our community. Ben is kind of a "Hero behind the scenes". He does many, many acts of kindness and charitable deeds that no one ever hears about, and he never says a word. To find someone else of his morals and character would be almost impossible. SHAME on the crybabies still trying to "Get Back" at the winning party at the Last National Election. GROW UP, SUCK IT UP, WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE OUR TOWN THE BEST IT CAN BE!! ALL THE BITCHING AND FINGER POINTING "IS REALLY MAKING AN IMPRESSION ON THE VOTERS". All the Finger pointing has got to stop!! "WE THE VOTERS ARE WATCHING" what Whiny little cry babies one party seems to be. This is one of the main reasons we voted the way we did! GET OVER IT! AND HELP EACH OTHER!!!

It's just one more instance of the Democrats making it as difficult as possible for anyone to get any work done because they didn't win.

"PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP" is right on the money when it comes to certain things. When The President said the "SORE LOSERS" would do the thing they attributed to Republicans, Whine and Bitch like the Bullies THEY are! The Democrats are showing their true colors going after Attorney Ben Ancona, they should be emulating him instead of trying to take him down.

Thank you Mr. Mayor.

Jimmy Lavery  
Piper Brook Ave, Newington  
860-558-9464

## Trevethan, Jaime

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**From:** Zartarian, Roy  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 15, 2017 9:18 AM  
**To:** Trevethan, Jaime  
**Subject:** FW: Ben Ancona

Roy C. Zartarian  
Mayor  
Town of Newington  
(860) 665-8506

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From: Robert Germano [bobbygerm@gmail.com]  
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2017 7:06 AM  
To: Zartarian, Roy  
Subject: Ben Ancona

To Mayor Zartarian and whomever it may concern;

In regards to the rhetoric that's been spewing all over social media in regards to Ben's comments on "his" Facebook page, I just wanted to give my 2 cents / "opinion". I think that people have way too much time on their hands, are way over-sensitive, and had and still have very very strong feelings and compassion about this past presidential election, which is a good thing, because it shows that people care and it seems that more and more people are getting involved in caring to what happens in our country. That being said, there will be more opinions, compassion, strong feelings, and different view points to continue. If people aren't allowed to express themselves without serious repercussions, then we are not truly free people living in the land of the free. We are not all going to agree or understand each other 100%. People need to understand this and accept it and learn to move forward in a positive direction and stop dwelling on the negative. Ben's comments were obviously not his own words as we've all heard them before in all media forums over the past several years and to me it's obvious that it was meant for short and sweet political sarcasm in favor of his political leaning. You cannot judge someone's character in a case like this where someone is using political satire, and frankly these people who are on a witch hunt to try and place Ben in a very negative light are wasting your's and everyone else who's forced to be involved, precious time !

Sincerely,

Robert Germano  
10 Long Street  
Newington, CT 06111

P.S. - I'm a registered Democrat & Please read this into the next meetings minutes.



## Trevethan, Jaime

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**From:** Zartarian, Roy  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 15, 2017 9:16 AM  
**To:** Trevethan, Jaime  
**Subject:** FW: Ben Ancona - Article in the Newington Patch

Roy C. Zartarian  
Mayor  
Town of Newington  
(860) 665-8506

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**From:** Kelly Stergakis [stergakis@cox.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 08, 2017 1:13 PM  
**To:** Zartarian, Roy  
**Subject:** Ben Ancona - Article in the Newington Patch

Dear Mr. Mayor,

I read the February 1<sup>st</sup> article in the Newington Patch concerning a reader who contacted the Patch about the town attorney, Ben Ancona's Facebook posts to his personal Facebook account. I would hope that the town is not considering replacing Mr. Ancona as the town attorney based on the fact that some residents don't share his political views, but I am sending in my opinion and would like it read into the minutes.

I first heard of this article – of all places – on social media. I have never met Mr. Ancona. I had no idea what Mr. Ancona posted on his personal Facebook page until I searched for and read the Newington Patch article. However, before I read the article and without knowing the details, a few things came to mind. Way before social media, Newington town attorneys no doubt had personal political opinions, and were able to perform their jobs. It's what people do as professionals. The difference is back in the good 'ol days, the community at large didn't have access to people's personal lives and opinions as they do today. I don't think that it would be a very good practice to call into question every town employee or contractor's ability to perform their professional responsibilities based on personal opinions shared on social media.

Therefore, it is my belief that regardless of personal opinions shared on social media, Mr. Ancona should continue as Town Attorney. What is important is that he is doing a good job and is representing the town in a professional manner while serving in that role.

Thank you,

Kelly Stergakis  
65 Waverly Drive  
Newington

## Trevethan, Jaime

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**From:** Zartarian, Roy  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 15, 2017 9:15 AM  
**To:** Trevethan, Jaime  
**Subject:** FW: Ben Ancona: please read this into the minutes

Roy C. Zartarian  
Mayor  
Town of Newington  
(860) 665-8506

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**From:** Ashley Arborio [ashleyarborio@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 07, 2017 10:28 PM  
**To:** Zartarian, Roy  
**Subject:** Ben Ancona: please read this into the minutes

Dear Mayor Zartarian:

My name is Ashley Arborio, I am a junior at Newington High School and a Newington resident for eleven years. As a Newington resident, I have been involved in the community since I was five with organizations such as Pop Warner, where I met Town Attorney Mr. Ben Ancona. He is a caring and generous family man who, in my experience, has always treated people with respect and kindness. Out of all the years of knowing him, he has never shown signs of bias, prejudice, or disrespect. Throughout the years of knowing Mr. Ben Ancona, it would be a great injustice for him to be removed from office due to assumptions and unfounded accusations made through social media. I strongly feel, as a resident of Newington, that we as a town would be losing a great resource and asset if he is removed from office without due process or consideration for his professionalism. Since we were young, we were taught to express our feelings honestly and value free speech. What message would our town be sending my generation if Town Attorney Ben Ancona is removed from office prematurely. Please accept this letter as a reference for Mr. Ancona's reputation and value as a respected member of our towns leadership. Please read this into the minutes.

Sincerely,

Ashley Arborio

## Trevethan, Jaime

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**From:** Zartarian, Roy  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 15, 2017 9:15 AM  
**To:** Trevethan, Jaime  
**Subject:** FW: Please read this letter into the minutes

Roy C. Zartarian  
Mayor  
Town of Newington  
(860) 665-8506

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**From:** Paul M [2paulm@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 07, 2017 8:52 PM  
**To:** Zartarian, Roy  
**Subject:** Please read this letter into the minutes

Please read this letter into the minutes

My name is Paul Mihalick a resident of the town of Newington.

I am very disturbed by the recent news report on WFSB regarding town attorney Ben Ancona. I would like to start by saying a persons personal facebook page should in no way be connected with their place of employment. People feel free to post their political views on their own pages because we live in a free country.

I also find it interesting that if republicans post something negative about democrats it is offensive but when democrats make negative posts towards Republicans it is all of sudden not only acceptable but encouraged. This is a double standard and is not right in a free country.

I normally would never review a persons personal facebook page that I do not know personally but in light of this newscast I did a little research of my own and it didn't take very long before I found employees of the town of Newington talking negatively about the new President and republicans going as far as to reference their gentiles in personal postings. I do have the names of these town employee's and have saved copies of these offensive posts in the event I feel they require media attention.

everybody posts their political views on their personal facebook pages but if it is not ok for Republicans then it is also not ok for Democrats who are posting much more offensive material.

Thank you for considering my view.

Paul Mihalick

## Trevethan, Jaime

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**From:** Zartarian, Roy  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 15, 2017 9:14 AM  
**To:** Trevethan, Jaime  
**Subject:** FW: Ben Ancona

Roy C. Zartarian  
Mayor  
Town of Newington  
(860) 665-8506

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**From:** Laura Campbell [zapatka@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 06, 2017 6:52 PM  
**To:** Zartarian, Roy  
**Subject:** Ben Ancona

Dear Mayor Zartarian

Please read this letter into the minutes of your next Town Council Meeting. I am writing in support of Ben Ancona. I have heard that people are asking that he be removed from his position as Town Attorney due to some posts made on his personal facebook page. This is ridiculous! He is entitled to his own opinions, and he is entitled to express those opinions. They were on his personal page, and he did not make any statements in his role as Town Attorney. It is shameful that people are asking that he be removed based on this nonsense. For the good of the Town of Newington, I hope that you will ignore those people and keep Mr. Ancona as Town Attorney. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Laura Campbell  
29 Ridgeview Crossing, Newington

**Laura Campbell**  
LAZA Properties  
860-944-3336 Phone/Text

Sent from my iPad

## Trevethan, Jaime

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**From:** Zartarian, Roy  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 15, 2017 9:14 AM  
**To:** Trevethan, Jaime  
**Subject:** FW: Ben Ancona- Town Attorney

Roy C. Zartarian  
Mayor  
Town of Newington  
(860) 665-8506

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**From:** DL [djlpm@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 06, 2017 4:30 PM  
**To:** Zartarian, Roy  
**Subject:** Ben Ancona- Town Attorney

David J. Lenares

----- Original message -----

From: David Lenares <djlpm@aol.com>  
Date: 2/6/17 1:16 PM (GMT-05:00)  
To: rzartarian@newingtonct.gov  
Subject: Ben Ancona- Town Attorney

Good Afternoon Mayor

If this email would be read into the minutes that would be wonderful...

I am hoping this email finds you well and am glad to hear that you are feeling better!!!!.... I am writing to you to express my concern over this recent situation relating to Ben Ancona and his recent comments that he made on his personal Facebook page... Mayor, frankly this is a political attack on someone's free speech on their own Facebook account... To question Ben as being a "racist"....or that he should be removed from his position is absurd... As you know, Ben and I are best friends/"brothers" and frankly he's one of the best damn guys I know... Like most "brothers", we argue like "cats and dogs" sometimes, but to read that someone suggested he should be "shown the door" or is a racist is just childish!!! Mayor, Ben is great man, friend, brother, dad, uncle, etc..... Everyone is entitled to their own opinion, and people should respect that... The people of Newington should feel fortunate to have a such a well respected attorney representing them... I DO!!!!

Again, Mayor, I'm a glad your feeling better.... and hope to see you soon!

David Lenares

## Trevethan, Jaime

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**From:** Zartarian, Roy  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 15, 2017 9:13 AM  
**To:** Trevethan, Jaime  
**Subject:** FW: Support for Ben Ancona, please read into minutes

Roy C. Zartarian  
Mayor  
Town of Newington  
(860) 665-8506

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**From:** Mike [mike@lenareslandscape.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 06, 2017 3:13 PM  
**To:** Zartarian, Roy  
**Subject:** Support for Ben Ancona, please read into minutes

Dear Mr. Mayor,

I will keep this letter short and simple, seeing as you probably have an overwhelming amount of letters coming to you showing support for our town Attorney Ben Ancona.

I have known Ben for over 40 years. To see his name be defamed by people in our very own town is disheartening.

You know as well as everyone who knows Ben, know that he is an outstanding citizen, friend, father, husband, son and brother. A man who is passionate about his job and the people that he represents.

These rumored requests for Ben to be replaced as Town Attorney is absurd and unconstitutional! As a former Mayor, I have faith in you, as our current Mayor, that this nonsense will be shut down and that his duty as Town Attorney will not be affected.

Please read this letter into the minutes.

Thank you for your time,  
Sincerely,  
Former Mayor,  
Mike A. Lenares and Tina Lenares

## Trevethan, Jaime

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**From:** Zartarian, Roy  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 15, 2017 9:13 AM  
**To:** Trevethan, Jaime  
**Subject:** FW: Town Attorney Ben Ancona

Roy C. Zartarian  
Mayor  
Town of Newington  
(860) 665-8506

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**From:** richards.christoph@sbcglobal.net [richards.christoph@sbcglobal.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 06, 2017 2:09 PM  
**To:** Zartarian, Roy  
**Subject:** Town Attorney Ben Ancona

Dear Mayor Zartarian

My name is Chris Richards, and I reside at 44 Candlewyck Drive in Newington. I am asking that you please read this letter into the minutes of your next Town Council Meeting.

I am writing regarding our Town Attorney, Ben Ancona. I am asking that he please continue in this role. The negative press about him is unfounded and absurd. Ben is a great person and attorney, and he is entitled to his own political opinions. His personal political opinions have nothing to do with his job as Town Attorney, and he has not done anything that would make anyone question his ability to continue as Town Attorney. Based on information I have received, Ben is doing a fantastic job, and it would be a shame for you to even consider removing him from that position. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Chris Richards

## Trevethan, Jaime

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**From:** Zartarian, Roy  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 15, 2017 9:13 AM  
**To:** Trevethan, Jaime  
**Subject:** FW: Town Attorney Ben Ancona

Roy C. Zartarian  
Mayor  
Town of Newington  
(860) 665-8506

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**From:** Lisa Richards [lisact131@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 06, 2017 2:04 PM  
**To:** Zartarian, Roy  
**Subject:** Town Attorney Ben Ancona

Dear Mayor Zartarian:

Please read this letter into the minutes. I am writing to express my support for Ben Ancona. I feel it is ridiculous that people are asking that he be fired for expressing an opinion on his private facebook page. He did not make any statements while in his role as Town Attorney. What ever happened to free speech? I hope that you will ignore all the negative comments as everything I have heard is that he is doing a great job as Town Attorney. I was glad to see your letter of support in the news story. Thank you for acknowledging his good work. Newington should be proud of the work he has done as Town Attorney and he should continue in that role.

Thank you.

Lisa Richards  
44 Candlewyck Drive



## Trevethan, Jaime

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**From:** Zartarian, Roy  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 15, 2017 9:12 AM  
**To:** Trevethan, Jaime  
**Subject:** FW: Document9  
**Attachments:** Document9.docx

Roy C. Zartarian  
Mayor  
Town of Newington  
(860) 665-8506

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**From:** Treviso, Suzanne [treviso@uchc.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 06, 2017 10:55 AM  
**To:** Zartarian, Roy  
**Subject:** Document9

February 6, 2017

Dear Mayor Zartarian

I am writing regarding Ben Ancona. Please read this letter into the minutes of your next Town Council Meeting. I support Ben as Town Attorney. It makes no sense to me that anything he said on his personal facebook page could be used against him. He is entitled to his personal opinions, and he is further entitled to express those opinions. He stated his opinion on his personal page in his personal capacity, not as the Town Attorney. So, I ask that you please ignore those irrational people who are asking that he be removed as Town Attorney. I understand he is doing a great job as Town Attorney, which you said so yourself in your statement to WFSB. Therefore, he should continue as the Town Attorney. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sue Treviso

35 Meadowview Court, Newington

## Trevethan, Jaime

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**From:** Zartarian, Roy  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 15, 2017 9:12 AM  
**To:** Trevethan, Jaime  
**Subject:** FW: I support free speach

Roy C. Zartarian  
Mayor  
Town of Newington  
(860) 665-8506

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**From:** bm83050@aol.com [bm83050@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 06, 2017 8:38 AM  
**To:** Zartarian, Roy  
**Subject:** I support free speach

Good day Mr. Mayor,

Several days ago an issue was brought to my attention regarding our town attorney that is very upsetting. It seems Mr Ancona made his political view known on his personal Facebook page and has come under attack by those with opposing views, even seeking to remove him from his position. That would be an outrage!

Regardless of our political stances, we all have an absolute right to free speech. To deprive anyone of that inalienable right is simply un-American. While members of our military undoubtedly individually do not share the exact same ideologies, they fight and many have died for our right to our own opinions.

I ask you sir, please do not allow anarchist bullies who demand that all comply with the same group think as they espouse to pressure you in removing Mr. Ancona from his position. It would be an unconscionable act to deprive him from his livelihood.

I stand for free speech and I stand with Ben Ancona.

Please read this letter into meeting minutes.

Sincerely, Bill Morrell

## Trevethan, Jaime

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**From:** Zartarian, Roy  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 15, 2017 9:11 AM  
**To:** Trevethan, Jaime  
**Subject:** FW: Ben

Roy C. Zartarian  
Mayor  
Town of Newington  
(860) 665-8506

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**From:** gnlbacon@gmail.com [gnlbacon@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 05, 2017 8:55 PM  
**To:** Zartarian, Roy  
**Subject:** Ben

Dear Mayor Zartarian

Please read this letter into the minutes of your next Town Council Meeting. I am writing to express my support for Ben Ancona as Town Attorney. I have seen some of the fall-out from some posts he made on his personal facebook page. First, I can't believe any news station would even do a story about this. He did not make those statements as the Town Attorney, but he made them on his personal page. To me it seems this is much ado about nothing. I would hate to see Mr. Ancona's position as Town Attorney be jeopardized over such nonsense. He did not do anything that should call into question his ability to serve as Town Attorney. All he did was exercise his American First Amendment rights. Therefore, please do not remove Ben from his current position. He should continue in that role. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Lisa Bacon  
68 Timothy Street, Newington.

Sent from my iPhone

## Trevethan, Jaime

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**From:** Zartarian, Roy  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 15, 2017 9:11 AM  
**To:** Trevethan, Jaime  
**Subject:** FW: I support Ancona's right to free speech

For forwarding to Linda for inclusion in minutes Roy C. Zartarian Mayor Town of Newington  
(860) 665-8506

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From: melissa j capsalors [lissa2355@yahoo.com]  
Sent: Sunday, February 05, 2017 7:33 PM  
To: Zartarian, Roy  
Subject: Re: I support Ancona's right to free speech

Please read into minutes of meeting.

On February 5, 2017, at 7:15 PM, melissa j capsalors <lissa2355@yahoo.com> wrote:

Good day Mr. Mayor,

Several days ago an issue was brought to my attention regarding our town attorney that is very upsetting. It seems Mr Ancona made his political view known on his personal Facebook page and has come under attack by those with opposing views, even seeking to remove him from his position. That would be an outrage!

Regardless of our political stances, we all have an absolute right to free speech. To deprive anyone of that inalienable right is simply un-American. While members of our military undoubtedly individually do not share the exact same ideologies, they fight and many have died for our right to our own opinions.

I ask you sir, please do not allow anarchist bullies who demand that all comply with the same group think as they espouse to pressure you in removing Mr. Ancona from his position. It would be an unconscionable act to deprive him from his livelihood.

I stand for free speech and I stand with Ben Ancona.

Sincerely,

Melissa Capsalors  
111 Ashland Ave  
Newington, Ct.